

THOUGHTS

BY DOUGLAS W. SCHROEDER
SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

44th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORD TODAY!

On Sunday, May 1st the 44th anniversary of The Word Today will be celebrated! The special offering for support of the ministry will be received. Our partners from around the country also participate in that offering, and I hope you will strongly support the work! A family who sold a business made a remarkable love offering of \$150K for the ongoing work of TWT, and they are challenging the rest of us to match it! I hope that is motivating to you! Through the decades, the ups and downs, this ministry has been consistent in bringing the Word of God in a simple format to millions! Let's keep it up!

M

HOLY LAND TRIP REGISTRATION ENDS MAY 22!

You still have time to join the incredible pilgrimage to Israel leaving this August 22! This is a fantastic – and I do mean fantastic – way to bolster your faith and see some of the most historically significant places in the world! I love going to Israel and cannot wait to return! We will see Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, and many other important places in the ministry of Jesus. We will visit important locations from both the Old Testament and New Testament. In addition, we will stop at the Dead Sea and Masada. We tour on a comfy coach and see awesome sights nearly on the hour. Everyone who goes returns with their faith rejuvenated and amazed at the sights. Go to the church website, ourshepherdlutheran.org to see more info. If you need help, just send an email to the church via the website. It's a "the more the merrier" trip, so see if your children or friends can come along! I hope you can join us!

A

I WOULD LOVE IT IF WE WERE AT 180 LANGUAGES

Please forgive my typo last month; we are at 80 languages and praying toward 100. Perhaps the thought of a fervent supporter who urged that I think beyond 100 to 200 was the inspiration for that slip. In my discipling, listening to the Word this morning Jesus told his disciples to expect miracles, "Truly I tell you that if anyone says to this mountain, "Be lifted up and thrown into the sea, and has no doubt in his heart but believes that it will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received, and it will be yours (Matthew 11:23-24).

Y

I'm not joking when I say we are praying first toward 100 languages, then 200! I didn't know where the means to reach 100 might come from, and the Lord is allowing it to be reached over time! I firmly believe that it will happen! I hope you do as well! Few things in movies impress me, but the faith claim of Angus Buchan, the Scottish farmer in Africa who was called by the Lord to be an evangelist. I won't spoil the part about potatoes, but it relates to having great faith in God. The best line, quoted in the movie was from Angus, "The condition for a miracle is difficulty, however the condition for a great miracle is not difficulty, but impossibility."

The Word
Today
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*The Bible is God's Word...Jesus is God's "Word" made flesh...
His death and resurrection, the message needed Today.*

MAY

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The above passage regarding firmly believing and receiving has been bastardized by the name it and claim it crowd, the success theology proponents. They have distorted the Gospel and turned it into a flim-flam operation. They urge irresponsibility on the part of followers to plump their ministries. It's disgusting and I understand why it is a cause for many to reject Christ, as they clearly see the hypocrisy of it.

Jesus' words are applicable in only one dimension, that of the Kingdom for the benefit of reaping souls for eternal life. Any other claim, any other desperate prayer for health, money, etc. is an abuse of Jesus' authority. None of these other things are promised, but only the power of the Gospel to bring people to salvation. This is the work that The Word Today engages in, and I believe that is why it is loved by sincere Christians who are intent on sharing the Good News with the world.

RADIO TOWER IN UKRAINE BLOWN UP

I was so pleased that The Word Today was being broadcast in Russian to the people of Ukraine and Russia! I am disgusted that the large radio transmitter being used by TWT was blown up! The perpetrators are not known, but the result is that our program is hindered. We now need to seek an alternative location with technical implications.

Satan does not want the Gospel proclaimed. He will work through evil persons to damage property and in the process remove avenues for preaching the Good News. I remember hearing a statement to the effect that Satan cannot remove the Gospel light from people against their will, but he can obscure it. Things such as war make it much harder to reach the spiritually hungry with the Bread of Life. Please pray fervently that a suitable alternative transmitter is found and The Word Today enabled to continue bringing life and salvation by God's Spirit!

STEADY AS SHE GOES

That is what a seasoned captain supposedly says on rough seas. Things do seem to be getting culturally choppy lately. The good ship Church will make way, as our Lord has assured. We may be tossed a bit, our confidence shaken. But let's not forget that our Savior is pretty good on the water! He walks on it, delivers lots of fish, and calms troubled seas! Remember, hope is the anchor for our soul – it anchors to Heaven, not here (see Hebrews 6:19-20). It will not always be smooth sailing here below, which is why it is wise to have Jesus pilot our ship! Hymn: Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me (a great one).

Will there be cruises in Heaven? I have no idea. Eden was corrupted too soon to give us deep insight regarding life in a paradise with God. But it will be phenomenal!

Blessings,
Douglas W. Schroeder

THE WORD TODAY reaching the world with GOD'S WORD